

WASHINGTON
SATURDAY, July 26, 1902.
CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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Corporations and Campaign Funds.

A plank in the platform on which Charles S. Hamlin announces his willingness to accept the democratic nomination for governor of Massachusetts declares against campaign contributions by corporations seeking legislative favors. Which of course is a declaration against corporate contributions at all. For as we all know, corporations have neither souls nor politics nor sentiment. Business is their one object, and those interested in legislation of any kind feel that they must have friends at court no matter which party is in power. Accordingly they are accustomed to dower both parties liberally when campaigns are in progress and the hat goes round. Their prayer is that of the uncertain man at sea in a storm: "Good Lord, or good devil, for I know not into whose hands I may fall."

Does Mr. Hamlin mean what he says? Are views shared by the national leaders of his party who just now are charged with the management of the party's campaign? The cry is trusts, or the abuse of their powers and opportunities by monopolistic corporations. Lewis Nixon of New York, a rich man, and selected because of his intimacy with rich men, is an adviser of his party in the east. Ben T. Cable, of Illinois, a rich man, and selected because of his intimacy with rich men, is the adviser of his party in the middle states. Each is expected to turn in something handsome in the way of a collection for the campaign. Will either solicit, or accept, a dollar derived from the sale of trust-made goods, or from corporations which in case of a revision of the tariff would present themselves at the doors of Congress and ask for favors?

Publicity, it is claimed by some people, would alone be sufficient to correct the evil of trusts. Let them be forced to show to the public the true character of their organizations, and what is cash and what credit of their resources, and much, it is asserted, would be gained. Why not then, to correct the evil of corporation "investments" in campaigns, require the campaign managers of both parties to abstain from soliciting or accepting corporation money, or to register whatever may be collected from such sources, leaving the public to draw its own conclusions from what may follow in the way of legislation by the party successful at the polls? Saucy for the goose should be sauce for the gander. Legislation cannot be sold if no money is taken in from those willing and eager to buy.

Mr. Bryan as a Talker.

Practice makes perfect. For the latest proof of this observe how easily Mr. Bryan bore off the palm at Nantasket on Thursday.

Mr. Shepard is no ordinary talker. He is a lawyer of full training and a very bright man, accustomed to hot questions in court and elsewhere. His campaign in New York last year was a severe test of the power to reason nicely and entertainingly. He did both while running for mayor, although he lost the race. His speech on Thursday was in good taste and temper, with the phrases nicely turned.

Mr. Carmack's training has been chiefly in journalism. But he has been in politics some time and has studied the speaker's art. His phrase-making is on occasion a little strained, but he is ready enough. He was probably at his best at Nantasket, being in company well calculated to inspire a man new in national life to his best.

Mr. Bryan's speech, however, for smoothness and persuasiveness read easily over the others. It was aggressive enough, and yet not too much so. It followed the text. It was so thoroughly characteristic that it would have been recognized without his name. The tone of confidence, of instruction, of admonition was distinct. Mr. Bryan has played the sage and the leader so long, the tricks of the trade come easily to his tongue.

It is six years this month since the Chicago convention surrendered to that fluent and fiery young man who faced it with a calm and care and he delivered his speech prepared. From that day he has practically done nothing but talk and write politics. His readiness is extraordinary. Wakened out of a sound sleep, called from the festive board, interrupted in a spirited personal conversation, he takes position before a crowd and without a moment's hesitation begins a speech which elicits the heartiest applause. He repeats himself frequently, but never in a dull way. His vocabulary is not only large, but he employs it to capital advantage and always so as to reach the common understanding.

An eminent and witty republican, who knows Mr. Bryan, remarked when told of what the democrats had done at Chicago, "They have nominated a mouth." Mr. Bryan has more than a mouth, but no other candidate for the presidency has ever used his mouth so much. As a talker pure and simple he is one of the extraordinary men of his generation.

It is now rumored that Fitzsimmons lost the fight because he yielded to the pugilist's besetting temptation to pause and indulge in conversation.

Some of the democratic leaders are wise enough to realize that a composite issue is as little to be depended on as a composite picture.

Legislative Uncertainties.

The English parliament is provided with a committee on style, which supervises the language of all acts to make sure that when finally passed they will express the thought and wish of the legislative body. One result is a much smaller number of bills to determine the intent of legislation than occupy the attention of the American courts. It would be a great aid to the judicial system of this country if Congress were to adopt such a scheme, as three noteworthy instances of looseness in local legislation enacted during the past session attest. The most conspicuous case is that of the justices of the peace, whose present number, ten, is apparently declared by the code amendment adopted last month to be excessive. The statute is absolutely contradictory upon this point, and a decision of the court can temporarily remedy the difficulty. Inasmuch as that decision cannot be rendered for two or three months at the shortest much confusion may result in the adjustment of the minor judicial affairs of the community. Had the language of the bill been scrutinized before its passage by a committee trained to discover flaws and inaccuracies the discrepancy would doubtless have been discovered in season to permit Congress to make its meaning absolutely clear in terms which could not have been subject to a moment's dispute.

This same amendment to the code contained a reference to the subject of legal holidays in a manner to suggest at once

that it may have been the incidental purpose of Congress to prescribe as such all Saturdays after 12 o'clock noon. But the purpose of the bill was accomplished in a casual manner by the change of a brief phrase, and so a doubt is raised in some minds as to the intent of the lawmakers, as well as to the actual scope of the act. Had it been the intention of Congress to provide this addition to the legal holidays in the District a committee on style could readily have phrased the paragraph in a manner to leave no doubt whatever.

The District appropriation bill, as it passed the House, in its references to street lighting by gas contained certain language to which in committee a representative of the gas company objected as compulsory of obligations upon the company which it regarded as excessive. There was no question in his mind that the language meant this specific requirement, and he urged that it be changed. It was so changed in the Senate, but the original language was restored in conference. Nevertheless, upon examination by the District solicitor, it was found that the objectionable phrases were contradictory of other parts of the same paragraph, and the requirement apprehended by the company could not be enforced. Yet there was no doubt as to the intent of Congress in the premises. Against the services of a style committee would have been useful in clarifying the enactment.

It is to be assumed that Congress wishes always to work in the open and to enact its laws in a manner to leave no doubt of its immediate purpose. If such is the case, if there is no wish to legislate by subtle, indirect means or to provide laws which it is known in advance cannot be construed and enforced, there is need of some such linguistic-legislative clearing house which English have provided with good effect.

England, Japan and Korea.

The reported agreement between England and Japan guaranteeing Korean independence follows as a natural result of the alliance arranged between those two countries to safeguard their interests in the far east. Although the report lacks confirmation as yet it is plausible, for every move which has been made by both England and Japan since the settlement of the Boxer troubles in China has tended to erect a bulwark against Russian aggressions on the eastern coast of Asia. The Russian influence has been steadily pressing both eastward and southward from Siberia. According to one goal of the St. Petersburg government, Korea another. By the terms of the treaty of peace between China and Japan Korea was proclaimed as an independent state, but strong suspicions have been aroused by the growth of Russian prestige at Seoul, especially in the light of a diplomatic controversy between the London government and the Emperor of Korea relative to an English official of Korea whose tenure was disputed. It was commonly understood that the Russian attitude toward Korea was the latest reports the new agreement between Japan and England stipulates that Korea shall employ no foreigners in the state service, thus avoiding a revival of the issue which nearly caused a breach between England and Russia.

Another item of the reported agreement is that Korea shall maintain military and naval establishments sufficient for her own defense. She now has an army of about 3,000 men under European officers, but no navy whatever. Inasmuch as there is reference in the Anglo-Japanese agreement relative to the floating of a national loan in the markets of either of those countries or of the United States it would seem to be in contemplation that Korea will proceed to enlarge her army and perhaps to build a navy as well. This is an important undertaking and one which doubtless has a greater significance than appears on the surface. It is obviously impossible for Korea to maintain a war establishment sufficient to cope with any one of the powers. But the Anglo-Japanese agreement proposes Korea's defense in case of an invasion. Why, then, the army and navy for self-protection? Are these countries seeking to build up in Korea an auxiliary force to aid their own when emergency arises, or are they aiming to lead Korea into debt to them for the establishment of her army and navy, or are they simply going through the diplomatic motions of giving Korea all the outward and visible tokens of independence, which she now lacks, while reserving over her the real power of arbiters of her fate? The mention of the United States as a possible source of money supply in case of a national loan suggests that England and Japan, while not seeking to involve this country in their latest far eastern diplomacy, are nevertheless not ignoring its interests, recognizing it as a powerful and sympathetic friend in the commercial struggle in the Orient.

John D. Long.

The selection of ex-Secretary Long to preside over the coming republican state convention in Massachusetts is a tribute to an able man and one of the cleanest of partisans. If it is only a personal compliment the country will applaud. If it is more than that; if it testifies to the probable return to public life of a man who has filled no place which he did not adorn, the country will benefit. Mr. Long, it is understood, is asking for no further honors at this party's hands. But he is of the type of man who is not content with what he has, but is ever seeking to advance himself. His health is good. His means are ample for his comfort. His experience is large. There ought to be still more work for him to do, and the Massachusetts republicans should find it for him. He is one of their best contributions to our national life in forty years.

Mr. Tillman has nothing to say about Mr. McLaughlin's refusal of an appointment. It was a bitter blow for the gentleman with the pitchfork and is best borne in silence.

Base ball players are looking for a return of the good old days when fancy salaries were common enough to justify the hope of retiring on a competency.

Secretary Moody is in danger of being held responsible for some harrowing attacks of sea-sickness.

Any Washington policy player could have told the Missouri democrats better than to fool with 10 to 1.

The Prevention of Collisions.

An Omaha clergyman has perfected a device, so it is reported, which claims to make railroad collisions impossible. Through its agency two trains can never get nearer than 2,000 feet of each other on the same track, whether going in the same or in opposite directions. The device consists of a system of electric wires strung along the tracks and attached to them at intervals with brass plates inserted under the fish-plates which bind the rails together. On the cow-catcher is an iron box containing the mechanism for stopping the train, which is automatic as far as the locomotive is concerned. When a train approaches within 8,000 feet of another a danger signal in the form of an electric globe is flashed directly in front of the engineer. If he heeds his orders he will stop his engine at once. If not, the device will stop for him, through the instrumentality of the superintending of the division along which the trains are then moving. In his office hangs a dial which indicates the position of all trains and their speeds. A system of levers throws on the current at the right places and thus places the control of all trains absolutely in the hands of this one official.

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"I s'pose you mean that he's in liquor ag'in."

"No. Jim ain't in liquor. The liquor's in Jim, though I s'pose that if he could get enough together he'd like nothin' better than to go swimmin' in it, so's to have it handy every time he opened his mouth."

Quicker.

Now Fitz and Jim have laid away The gloves. Though bitter was the fray, They had it out in thrilling style And in a very little while.

And since they've had their actual fight No more with phrases impolite Will they assail each other's ears. Once more the olive branch appears.

But if they had relied instead On words, such as "unwarranted" And "falsehood," it were safe to bet The fray would not be ended yet.

Though pugilism's very wrong An is condemned in language strong, It has advantages, perhaps, O'er certain parliamentary "scraps."

Venetian Menace Venice.

From the London Chronicle.

The Campanile may be raised again, for the world is full of its paintings and photographs, yet it can never recover the charm of the Campanile which stood for the best part of a thousand years. If Venice will not take the trouble to preserve itself the task should be taken in hand by a select committee from the civilized peoples of the world.

Hot Air Not Wanted.

From the Hartford Times.

What the American voter wants from the political orator who undertakes to instruct him is not a lot of airy conversation about plutocrats and aristocrats, but definite ideas as to practicable and righteous measures for the maintenance of the equality of opportunity for all citizens, and the equal distribution of the burdens and advantages of government on all.

Baltimore to Bury Wires.

From the Baltimore American.

The burial of the overhead wires will positively take place before November 1. No extension of time will be given the bereaved mourners for the indulgence of their grief. No flowers.

Four Paramount Issues.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Chairman Griggs of the democratic congressional campaign committee, after consulting with leaders of his party in the east, has decided to make it four paramount issues instead of one, as formerly.

Harmony!

From the Indianapolis Journal.

orders he will stop his engine at once. If not, the device will stop for him, through the instrumentality of the superintending of the division along which the trains are then moving. In his office hangs a dial which indicates the position of all trains and their speeds. A system of levers throws on the current at the right places and thus places the control of all trains absolutely in the hands of this one official.

The railroad accident is one of the terrors

of the times. Apparently not even the most perfect equipment and administration will prevent crashes and the loss of life. Every week brings its disaster of the rails, despite the lessons that have been learned at a terrible cost. Disobedience of orders, misunderstandings, conflict of instructions, forgetfulness, crass stupidity combine with accidents to the line or to the switching or signaling apparatus or to the motive power in a great variety of factors for the disarrangement of the nicely balanced system upon which thousands of human lives depend every hour. The majority of accidents, it appears, are due to personal faults. This Omaha device would transfer the responsibility from the crews of the trains to a single official in a central office. Provided he were qualified for such a tremendous task as this, the shift would doubtless be a wise one. But the invention, even if it does all that is claimed for it, still falls short of the ideal collision-preventing apparatus, which, when perfected, will work absolutely on its own initiative, without human intervention. As long as railroads are operated by steam it is questionable whether this check will be secured. The rapid development of electric traction, however, promises that the traveling public will before many years have passed be safeguarded by a system of current interruptors which will be effectively controlled by the motor driver's liability to err or fail in emergencies.

After a railway company has collided with the moral natures of a few New York aldermen it is not to be wondered at if it becomes more or less cold and unphilanthropic.

Speaker Henderson is not allowing any apprehensions about the speakership to prevent him from observing the usual rules for a safe and comfortable summer.

New York has enough criminal mysteries to keep the detectives occupied for years to come. But there is nothing done to check the supply.

Miss Yohe must be credited by her sister-actresses with one of the most brilliant and effective diamond robberies known to the profession.

Mr. Bryan admits that he has not preached his doctrines with much success in New England. And New England is not the only place.

If the Filipino friars have been slandered they are undoubtedly victims of one of the most colossal "unwarranted" statements ever circulated.

Booth Tarkington and Winston Churchill are both in the political arena. If politicians insist on writing books, book writers will go into politics.

Outlaw Tracy has attracted so much attention that he may decide to ignore any posse not accompanied by a brass band.

Fitzsimmons may console himself with the reflection that Jeffries' turn to go into the ring once too often will surely come.

SHOOTING STARS.

Doubtful.

"No," said the capitalist, "I shall not invest in your invention. I very seriously question its practicability and its importance."

"For what reason?"

"Because no one has come forward with a claim that you stole it from him."

A Study of Society.

"Don't you subscribe till the doctrine that all men are born equal?" inquired Mr. Dolan.

"I do not," answered Mr. Rafferty. "My big Dinny weighed several pounds more at the start than your son Miles. If any attercation could have come up because the infants Dinny won bound try git the best iv it."

A Constant Draft.

The seaside scares you most to death And leaves your hopes a wreck. For every time you draw your breath You have to draw a check.

A Grim Jest.

A woman in a faded sun bonnet paused wearily in her wood chopping to respond to the greeting of the neighbor who had just come down the road.

"Why don't you make your husband chop the wood?"

"Jim ain't no good hand at wood chopping. Besides, if he was to try it just now he might hurt himself."

"I s'pose you mean that he's in liquor ag'in."

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1405, 1407, 1409 14th st. e. e.

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